(b) if so, how much gas is demanded; and

(c) what action Government have taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Government of Assam have conveyed willingness for an allocation of 0.5 million standard cubic metre per day (MMSCMD) of natural gas to Assam State Electricity Board (ASEB) for the proposed Amguri Power Project in Sibsagar district. Keeping in view the overall gas availability scenario in the region and in view of the continuous low drawal of gas by ASEB, the Govt. have informed the State Govt. of Assam that 0.5 MMSCMD of natural gas can be allocated for the Amguri Power Project out of the total existing commitment of gas made to ASEB. This gas can be made available at the off-take point at Duliajan and ASEB/Amguri Power Project will have to install necessary infrastructural facilities including gas transportation pipelines from Duliajan to the project site.

Utilisation of off-shore natural gas

†2399. SHRI ONKAR SINGH LAKHAWAT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the off-shore natural gas reservoirs, which do not fall in the territory of any State, are considered as natural resources; if so, whether the requirement and employment position of the States concerned are also taken into consideration for its utilisation; if not, the reasons therefor; and

(b) whether the Government of Rajasthan has submitted any demand to Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) Under the The Territorial Waters, Continental Shelf, Exclusive Economic Zone and Other Maritime Zones Act, 1976, the Union Government has sovereign rights for the purpose of exploration, exploitation, conservation and management of the natural resources, both living and non-living as well as for producing energy form tides, winds and currents in the Exclusive Economic Zone.

(b) No, Sir.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.